



Diocese of Pittsburgh

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Office of the Bishop

January 23, 2016

Dear sisters and brothers of Saint Basil, Saint Mary of the Mount and Prince of Peace Parishes,

At the same time that you are receiving this letter, I have announced to the parishioners at Saint John Vianney Parish, Hilltop, that I have accepted the recommendation of the diocesan Priest Council and the diocesan Vicars General to dissolve the parish and close its church building on Sunday, April 3, 2016. As of that date and at the invitation of Father Michael J. Stumpf, Pastor of Saint Mary of the Mount Parish, Mount Washington; Father Stephen A. Kresak, Pastor of Saint Basil Parish, Carrick; and Father Bernard M. Harcarik, Pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, South Side; the parishioners of Saint John Vianney will become members of one of your parishes.

The first and most important mission with which I am charging every single one of you is to welcome the new members and do everything possible to help them feel at home. Some will be grieving the loss of their Church where their faith was formed and where they celebrated milestones of family and sacramental life. Please reach out to them, listen to them and offer them your friendship.

Beyond that, your pastors will appoint a transition committee to make specific plans. By considering many aspects of parish life, such as worship, ministries, administration, evangelization and education, the transition committee will plan coordinated pastoral care for Saint John Vianney parishioners and for the Hilltop neighborhoods that their parish has served.

At this time I ask you to pray for your priests and for the people of Saint John Vianney, and to consider ways that you will support them. I encourage you to proceed on the foundation stones I have proposed for this entire Diocese as together we plan for future ministry and growth. Those foundation stones are prayer, study, collaboration, team work, listening, openness and trust. Together you and I can ensure that ministry offered in the name of Jesus will continue.

Grateful for our belief that “Nothing is Impossible with God,” I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

DAZ:jk

cc: Most Reverend William J. Waltersheid, VG
Very Reverend Lawrence A. DiNardo, VG
Very Reverend Robert F. Guay, VE
Very Reverend Mark Ward, CP
Reverend Bernard M. Harcarik

Reverend Stephen A. Kresak
Reverend Walter G. Rydzon
Reverend Michael S. Sedor
Reverend Michael J. Stumpf
Reverend Thomas R. Wilson